

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 EB-07

TRSE-00 AEC-05 COME-00 MC-01 PRS-01 /078 R

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R 032328Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REFS: STATE 281495, STATE 282969

1. UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU CALLED ON DEPT ASST
SECY DEFENSE (ISA) NOYES JAN. 2 TO REITERATE VOLTAN
POSITION ON BORDER DISPUTE AND GOUV REQUEST FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. HE ORIGINALLY REQUESTED CALL ON DEP SECY
DEFENSE CLEMENTS, CITING EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRES
LAMIZANA, BUT RELUCTANTLY AGREED SEE NOYES INSTEAD FOR
"PRELIMINARY MEETING."

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2. IN PREFACE, YAGUIBOU SAID THAT AT SAME TIME DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO RESOLVE CONFLICT WERE UNDERTAKEN AT LOME, MALI WAS SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS WORLD CAPITALS, ESPECIALLY EASTERN EUROPE, SEEKING ARMS AID. HE ADDED THAT MALIAN MIN DEF DOUKARA'S VISIT TO MOSCOW HAD PROMPTED GOUV PROTEST TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR UPPER VOLTA. SAID SOVIETS NOT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE GRANTING MALI ASSISTANCE BUT INSTEAD DELEGATING THIS TASK TO OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY THAT CZECHS WERE PROVIDING SMALL ARMS. UPPER VOLTA, HE EMPHASIZED, NOT SEEKING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, ONLY WANTED ESTABLISH MINIMUM DETERRENT FORCE TO DEFEND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. YAGUIBOU ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF USG COULD NOT PROVIDE ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT FROM LIST GIVEN ASST SECY EASUM DEC. 24 ON GRANT BASIS FROM US SURPLUS STOCKS. FURTHER SAID HE WOULD PRESENT ON JAN. 6 LIST OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION WHICH GOUV DESIRED AS GRANT BUT WOULD PURCHASE IF NECESSARY. ASKED IF EXPORT LICENSES WOULD POSE PROBLEMS.

4. NOYES EXPRESSED OUR DISTRESS OVER BORDER CONFLICT. CITED STOCKPILES LEFT BEHIND IN VIET NAM AND DECLINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AS TWO OF SEVERAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO US MATERIEL SITUATION, WHICH IN FACT ONE OF SHORTAGES RATHER THAN SURPLUSES. SAID MOREOVER CONGRESSIONAL MOOD VERY COOL TO IDEA GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ONE SIDE IN REGIONAL DISPUTE. THIRDLY, DOLS 40 MILLION CEILING ON GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR ALL AFRICA FULLY UTILIZED AND THERE CONTINUING PRESSURE TO REDUCE THIS FIGURE NOT AUGMENT IT.

5. YAGUIBOU REJOINED THAT US POSITION THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO VOLTAN REQUEST FOR GRANT AID MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS INTRUSION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS CONFLICTED WITH PAST US POLICY IN BROADEST SENSE; QUOTE YOU HAVE ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING TO SAY WHERE THREATS TO PEACE CONCERNED QUOTE. US POSITION GAVE APPEARANCE OF INDIFFERENCE; USG SILENCE ON THIS ISSUE COULD BE MISTAKEN AS COLLUSION (WITH MALI). NOYES REJOINED THAT USG NOT INDIFFERENT BUT CONCERNED WITH QUESTION WHAT POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WE

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COULD MAKE TO SETTLEMENT OF ISSUE.

6. DOD REPRESENTATIVE GAVE AMBASSADOR SPECIFICS OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE DOD CAN PROVIDE HIM IN LOCATING TRADE REPRESENTATIVES AND MANUFACTURERS OF NON-LETHAL ITEMS ON HIS LIST. (FYI. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS TOTAL COST WILL BE DOLS 1.5 - 2.0 MILLION FOB FACTORY. END FYI) SAID CUSTOMARILY SUPPLIERS DEMAND PARTIAL PAYMENT IN CASH

ON ORDER AND BALANCE WITHIN 90 DAYS. AMBASSADOR SAID GOUV THINKING IN TERMS 12 - 24 MONTHS PAYMENT SCHEDULE. WAS AGREED EMBASSY AND DOD WORKING LEVEL WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS OF COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF NON-LETHAL ITEMS.

7. REFERRING TO HIS FORTHCOMING LIST OF ARMS REQUIREMENTS, YAGUIBOU ASKED WHAT EXPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WOULD APPLY. WAS SUGGESTED HE PRESENT HIS LIST TO STATE DEPARTMENT WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE SO THIS QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED WITH PRECISION. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD BE FLEXIBLE RE EXPORT LICENSING OF ARMS.

8. YAGUIBOU HAS SCHEDULED CALL ON ASST. SECY EASUM JAN. 6 AND PRESUMABLY WILL PRESENT US HIS LIST OF ARMS DESIRED AT THAT TIME.

9. DOD CONCURS. KISSINGER

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